GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Prohibition and Excise – Excise Policy for 2024-26 – (4) Shops reserved for Sondi Caste – Disposal of (4) Shops – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 22 **Dated: 25-01-2025**

Read the following:

1. GO Ms. No. 210, Revenue (Excise) Department, Dated 30-09-2024.
2. G.O.Ms No. 211, Revenue (Excise) Department dated 30.09.2024.
3. G.O.Ms No. 212, Revenue (Excise) Department dated 30.09.2024.
4. G.O.Ms No. 213, Revenue (Excise) Department dated 30.09.2024.
5. Govt. Memo No.REV01-CPE0MISC/172/2024-Excise, Dt:20.01.2025.
6. From Director, Prohibition and Excise, e-office File No.:REV04-15021/6/2024-E-COPE (Computer No. 2541347) Dated:23.01.2025.

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above the Government have issued AP Excise (Grant of License of selling by Shop and conditions of license) Rules, 2024 (Shop Rules, 2024) governing disposal and administration of Shops. In the reference 2nd read above orders have been issued relating to Excise Policy, 2024-26.

2. In the reference 5th read above, Government has informed Director, Excise & Prohibition, AP that it has been decided to reserve (4) Shops for Sondi caste, the traditional occupation of which is liquor selling and is predominantly present in the north coastal districts of the State as per the report of Director of BC Welfare. Accordingly, the Director, Excise & Prohibition, AP was requested to send proposal for reservation and allotment of the (4) Shops to Sondi Caste.

3. In the reference 6th read above, the Director, Excise & Prohibition has submitted proposals for reservation and disposal of (4) Shops for Sondi caste separately. He has further reported that the Director, BC Welfare Department, A.P., Vijayawada vide Rc.No.G/1695/2024, Dated 24.09.2024, 20.11.2024 and 27.11.2024, has furnished the details of Sondi caste in the erstwhile 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh as per Smart Pulse Survey, 2016, informing that their traditional occupation is liquor selling, predominantly present in the north coastal districts of the State and the Sondi caste falls under BC-D Group in the State BC list.

4. The Director, Excise and Prohibition has proposed allocation/distribution of Shops for Sondi Caste based on the population criteria. (2) Shops in Srikakulam and (1) Shop each in Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram Manyam districts.

5. The Government, after careful examination agrees with the Director, Excise & Prohibition, Andhra Pradesh, for allocation/ distribution of proposed (4) shops for Sondi caste and formulate the following guidelines for disposal of these shops for 2024-26.

(P.T.O)

6. Accordingly, the following notification will be published in an Extra-Ordinary issue of the Andhra Pradesh Gazette dated 25.01.2025:-

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 3(3) of AP Excise (Grant of License of selling by Shop and conditions of license) Rules, 2024, the Government hereby reserves four (4) Shops for allotment to "Sondi Caste" and issue the following procedure/ guidelines for disposal of Reserved Shops for Sondi caste.

1. Sondi caste population will be based on Smart Pulse Survey, 2016 for 13 erstwhile districts and erstwhile districts Sondi caste population shall be mapped for new districts.
2. There shall be no Shops reserved for Sondi caste in the Scheduled Areas of any district.
3. The Shops so reserved for Sondi caste in the District shall be distributed among the constituent units of the district based on the Shop-to-Population ratio (including Bars) for each Unit in the District where the ratio is high, restricting to one Shop per unit as far as possible.
4. The District Prohibition & Excise officer will submit proposals to the Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise proposing unit wise number of reserved shops. The Commissioner after making necessary enquiry as deemed fit and approve the unit wise number of reserved shops. Thereafter, the District Collector, by drawl of lots will make allocation of reserved shops to Sondi caste in different units in the district.
5. The District Prohibition & Excise officer has to submit proposals again to the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise after finalisation of unit wise allocation of shops to Sondi's by drawl of lots by the District Collector concerned. The Commissioner shall examine the proposal and fix the number of Shops under Reserved category to be established in a Unit before publication of notification inviting applications.
6. The District Prohibition and Excise Officer/Licensing Authority shall call for applications for grant of licenses for the reserved Shops by issuing Notification.
7. The method of disposal shall be by Drawl of Lots conducted by the District Collector concerned, who is the selection authority.
8. Submission of applications shall be through online, offline or hybrid model.
9. The applicants for reserved Shops shall be required to submit Caste and Nativity certificate issued by the competent authority.
10. The non-refundable application fee shall be fixed as Rs.2,00,000/- per application and the applicant may file any number of applications for any number of Shops.

(Contd…3)

11. The applicant shall be eligible to file applications for the reserved shops notified in the district which is recorded in his caste and nativity certificate.

12. "One Person – One License": In order to ensure that the benefit of reserved Shops with reduced RET covers most of the members of the reserved caste and to realise the objectives of reserving these Shops, one person shall be allowed to hold one Shop License only and in case he/she is selected for more than one Shop, it shall be the responsibility of the selected applicant to inform the authorities concerned of his choice of Shop for grant of license. His / her selection for other Shops shall be cancelled and such Shop (s) may be allotted to the reserve applicant (s).

13. The annual RET in respect of reserved Shops shall be 50% of the annual RET applicable for open-category Shops vide reference 3rd read above.

14. The license period for the reserved Shops shall come to an end by 30.09.2026.

15. The A.P Excise (Grant of License of selling by Shop and conditions of license) Rules, 2024 shall govern the selection process, allotment, administration etc., of the reserved Shops.

16. The Director, Excise and Prohibition is permitted to fix the time lines for disposal of reserved shops for Sondi adhering to the Rules.

7. The Director, Excise and Prohibition and the Managing Director, APSBCL shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

MUKESH KUMAR MEENA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Printing and Stationery and Stores Purchase, AP, Vijayawada (He is requested to furnish 100 copies to Govt. and 500 copies to the Director, Excise & Prohibition, AP, Mangalagiri and 50 copies to the Commissioner, I&PR, Vijayawada)
The Director, Excise and Prohibition, A.P. Mangalagiri.
The Managing Director, AP State Beverages Corporation Limited, Mangalagiri.
Copy to:
The Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada
The Commissioner, I&PR, AP, Vijayawada.
The P.S. to Prl. Secy. to Hon'ble CM.
The PS to Chief Secretary to Government.
The PS to Hon'ble Minister (Excise).
The PS to Prl. Secy. to Govt., Revenue (Excise) Department.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER